PANTLINGIA SERRATA DEORI SP. NOV. (ORCHIDACEAE)—A SECOND SPECIES OF THE GENUS FROM MEGHALAYA

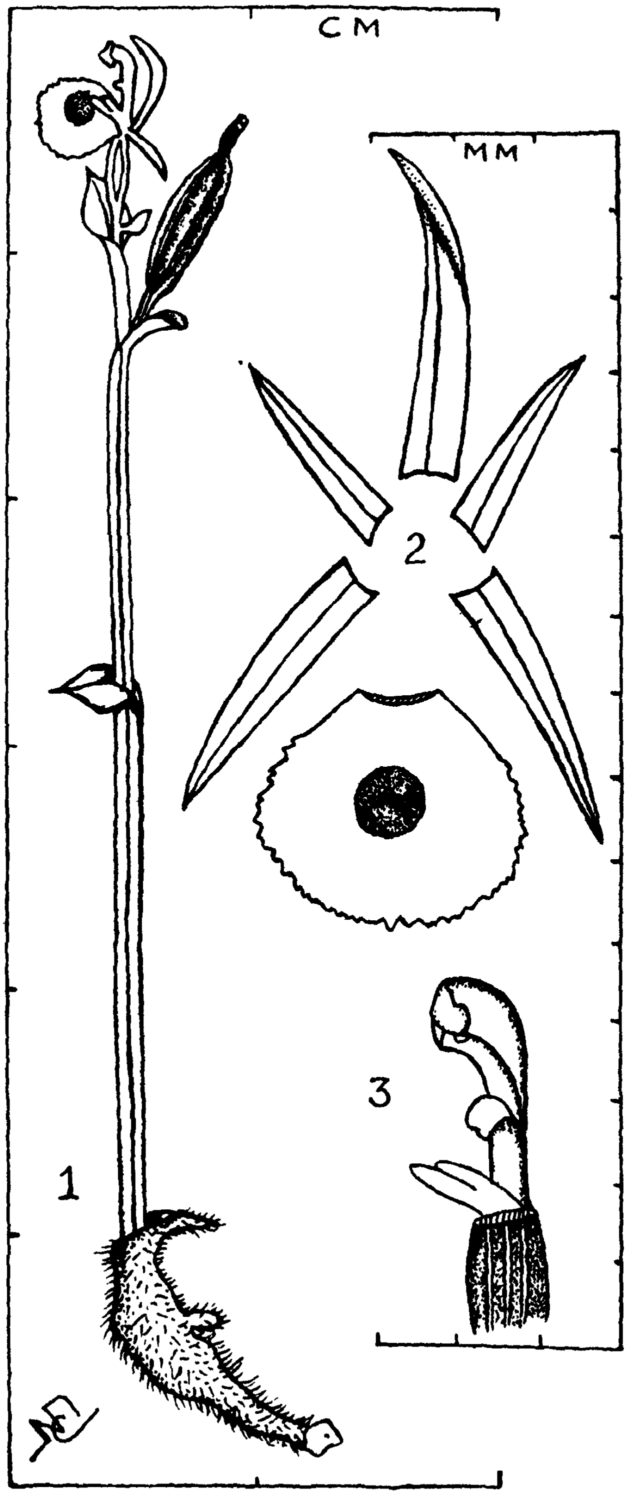
Pantlingia serrata Deori sp. nov.—affinis *P. paradoxa* Prain, tamen differt labello late obovato vice transverse elliptico, marginibus crenatis-serratis vice integris, absque callo ad basin labelli vice duabus callis conspicuis.

Holotypus N. C. Deori 51262 A (CAL), Shillong Peak, alti ± 2033 m, Meghalaya, India; *isotypi* 51262 B-C (ASSAM).

Pantlingia serrata Deori sp. nov.—allied to *P. paradoxa* Prain, but differing from it in having a broadly obovate lip, instead of transversely elliptic one, with crenate-serrate margins instead of entire and in having no callus on the lip-base instead of two large calli.

Holotype N. C. Deori 51262 A (CAL); *isotypes* 51262 B-C (ASSAM), Shillong Peak, alt. ± 2033 m, Meghalaya, India.

Small rhizomatous saprophytic herbs. Rhizome sub-erect, hairy. *Stem* ± 5·5 cm long, erect, slender, triquetrous, glabrous, with a single ovate, abruptly acuminate, sterile bract about the middle. *Floral bracts* ovate-acute, ± 3 × 2 mm. *Flowers* 2, sometimes more, or rarely one, pedicellate, in a very short terminal raceme, small, pale yellow with a round purple blotch on the lip; *dorsal sepal* linear ± 4 mm long, as long as or slightly longer than the column, *laterals* subequal ± 3·5 mm long, linear, not spreading, concealed under the lip; *petals* subequal ± 2·5 mm long, narrowly linear, spreading; *lip* ± 3·0 × 3·2 mm, flat, broadly obovate with crenate-serrate margins, mucronate apex and embracing the column at base; *column* ± 3 mm high, curved at apex, with a short transverse plate on the inner side beyond the middle and a short sub-erect, fleshy, unequally bifid process at its base. *Anther* opening vertically; *pollinia* 4, in pairs without stipes and glands. *Ovary* conspicuous (pedicel and ovary 4-6 mm long). *Capsule* 6-7 mm long, ridged.



Pantlingia serrata Deori
Figs. 1-3: 1. Habit. 2. Petals. 3. Flower.

Flowering & Fruiting: September, growing on moss-covered forest floor.

Note: This new find can at once be distinguished from *P. paradoxa* in the absence of the callus on the lip coupled with crenate-serrate margins. So far, attempts to collect more specimens from the same locality as well as neighbouring areas with similar ecological conditions have proved futile.

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Botanical Survey of India, Shillong

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SOME INTERESTING NEW USES OF THE WELL KNOWN PLANT *VITEX NEGUNDO* LINN. (NISINDA)

Vitex negundo (Verbenaceae) is a well known economic plant. Several medicinal and other uses of this plant are known from literature such as Watt (1893), Biswas et al. (1973), Anonymous (1976) and Bhattacharjee (1977).

Vitex negundo is a large aromatic shrub upto about 5 m high or sometimes small tree and is found almost throughout India. The plant is easily recognised by its thin grey bark and lanceolate leaflets which are glabrous above and white tomentose below with bluish purple flowers. The plant is grown readily from stem-cuttings.

During ethnobotanical study (August 1977) among the Oraon tribe in Hazaribagh District of Bihar, the author observed additional medicinal uses of this plant as well as its use as insect repellant and insecticide for paddy fields. The following new uses are reported in this paper.

Uses of Plant & their parts: Hot extract of leaves is useful in rheumatism, the powder of dry leaves is applied on wounds, the juice of leaves boiled with Til oil is applied on itching, the water obtained after boiling leaves in water is said to produce antiseptic effects, kills germs in teeth and relieves pain due to swelling of gums by washing the mouth with it, leaves juice for reducing sexual emotions, leaves fomentation is considered as a remedy for different diseases of testis (*Eksira, Orchitis* or *Epidydamitis*). It has been gathered from the tribes of the region that its leaves if kept under bed, drives away bed bugs and small twig inserted into vagina causes abortion in an early stage.

As regards the use of this plant as insect repellant, and as an insecticide in the paddy fields, it was observed that the tribals at Barhi made a bunch of twigs and brushed the top of the paddy plants vigorously and repeatedly all over the field (Plate 1). In order to have a regular supply of these plants the tribals grow these plants as hedges around their agricultural fields.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for going through the manuscript and several valuable suggestions and